

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 04478 312140Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03
SS-15 NSC-05 /054 W
-----010313Z 011759 /73

R 312135Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3627
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL HALIFAX

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 04478

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UK, US, CA

SUBJECT: US-UK CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS: CANADIAN CONNECTION

REF: LONDON 8948

1. AIR CANADA, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, HAS SOME EXCESS CAPACITY WHICH WOULD BE USED ON UK ROUTES (WE SUGGEST DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. CARRIERS TO ASSESS ITS EXTENT IN PRACTICAL TERMS). EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS AIR CANADA ALSO HAS UNDER-UTILIZED AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD BE USED ON EXTRA FLIGHTS TO AND FROM EXISTING LANDING POINTS IN CANADA OR NEW TEMPORARY LANDING POINTS IF PERMITTED BY GOC. HOWEVER, TO BE EFFECTIVE AND TO BYPASS PRECLEARANCE CONSTRAINTS FLIGHTS WOULD HAVE TO USE POINTS IN CANADA WHICH HAVE CONNECTIONS TO POINTS IN U.S. BUT WHICH DO NOT HAVE PRECLEARANCE SERVICE. HALIFAX, QUEBEC CITY, OTTAWA AND HAMILTON (ONTARIO) ARE POSSIBILITIES. AIR CANADA HAS REGULAR SERVICE FROM HALIFAX TO BOSTON, BAR HARBOR AIRLINES FROM QUEBEC CITY TO BOSTON, EASTERN FROM OTTAWA TO BALTIMORE, AND NORDAIR FROM OTTAWA AND HAMILTON TO PITTSBURGH. THESE SERVICES ARE LIMITED IN FREQUENCY AND
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 04478 312140Z

CROWDED DURING SUMMER PEAK. EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF ANY OF THEM WOULD THUS REQUIRE CAPACITY INCREASE. THIS MIGHT BE MOST EASILY POSSIBLE FROM HALIFAX IF ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT WERE ASSIGNED TO THAT AIR CANADA ROUTE.

2. TO FRUSTRATE THESE ALTERNATIVES USG WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON ITS PRESSURES ON U.S. CARRIERS (RE QUEBEC CITY

AND OTTAWA ROUTES) OR ON CONGESTION CONDITIONS AT U.S. AIRPORTS (BOSTON, BALTIMORE AND PITTSBURG). SUGGEST WASHINGTON LOOK AT SITUATION THOSE LATTER POINTS AND ADVISE. IF SITUATION WARRANTS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS THESE POSSIBILITIES CANDIDLY WITH GOC AND POINT OUT AS APPROPRIATE CLEARANCE DELAYS LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED.

3. FOR HALIFAX. EMBASSY IS POUCHING TO YOU COPIES OF PREVIOUS CLASSIFIED CABLES ON THIS SUBJECT. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENT YOU MAY HAVE ON POSSIBILITY INCREASED AIR CANADA FLIGHTS TO UK AND/OR BOSTON AFTER JUNE 22 WHEN US/UK AIR SERVICE MAY BE SUSPENDED.

4. AFTER ABOVE WAS WRITTEN TCO HAD OPPORTUNITY TALK INFORMALLY WITH RALPH AZZIE, MEMBER OF THE AIR TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (ATC) AND LONG TIME DIRECTOR CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL AIR NEGOTIATORS. AZZIE SAID THAT FOR AIR CANADA TO OPERATE TO/FROM POINTS OTHER THAN THOSE IT SERVES AN AMENDMENT TO THE CANADA-UK BILATERAL WOULD BE REQUIRED PLUS ATC AUTHORIZATION. LATTER WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT IN VIEW OF LONG-STANDING ATC AND GOC POLICY AGAINST TEMPORARY SERVICE AUTHORIZATIONS. IN HIS VIEW HALIFAX IS THE ONLY POINT WHICH AIR CANADA COULD USE TO AUGMENT TRAFFIC FROM UK FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO U.S. WITHOUT RUNNING AFOUL OF TORONTO CONGESTION AND MONTREAL PRECLEARANCE PROBLEMS. (NOTE: AIR CANADA PRESENTLY OPERATES ON ALMOST DAILY BASIS BETWEEN HALIFAX AND UK (LONDON-GLASGOW).) ENDERS
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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 04478 312140Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA04478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-0221
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977052/aaaaabrs.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2e65498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LONDON 8948
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2377867
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-UK CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS: CANADIAN CONNECTION
TAGS: EAIR, UK, US, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e65498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009